



FACE Program Fact Sheet

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

Department of Health and Family Services * Division of Public Health

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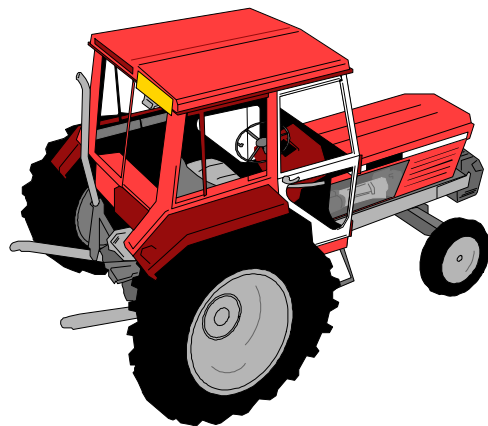
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FARMER AND LANDSCAPER KILLED WHEN THEIR TRACTORS STRIKE OBJECTS IN DITCHES

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program received reports of 106 fatal occupational injuries during 1998. Tractor-related incidents accounted for nine (8%) of the total fatal injuries. Three of those occurred when tractors pinned the victims after striking objects hidden in ditches.

This fact sheet describes two of those incidents and requests that farm safety professionals and employers who use agricultural equipment bring the following recommendations to the attention of tractor drivers and their families.



Example of ROPS-equipped tractor

THE INCIDENTS

Incident #1

A 36-year-old construction laborer died after the tractor he was driving struck a hidden culvert, and he was jolted from the seat and pinned under the rear wheel. He worked for a road construction company that was landscaping a highway overpass. The victim was assigned to finish up the silt fence plowing. He was jolted from the tractor seat, while the tractor continued to roll until it came to rest on his back. The tractor was not equipped with a rollover protective structure (ROPS) or seatbelts.

Incident #2

A 92-year-old farmer died after his tractor overturned and he was pinned under the seat. He had been using the tractor with a front bucket

loader to grade the driveway on his property. The victim was backing the tractor into the driveway when the rear wheel hit the culvert and went into the ditch. The tractor overturned, pinning him under the tractor seat. The tractor was not equipped with a rollover protection structure (ROPS) or seatbelts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To prevent similar occurrences, tractor drivers should:

- avoid using tractors that are not fully equipped with rollover protective structures (ROPS) and seatbelts.
- look over the terrain prior to beginning work with a tractor and mark hidden hazards for visibility.

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.

PLEASE POST

FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.

If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608/266-7298, or write:

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